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A CRITICAL AND EXEGETICAL COMMENTARY ON THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL. By HENRY PRESERVED SMITH, PH.D., D.D., Professor of Biblical History and Interpretation in Amherst College. ("The International Critical Commentary.") New York; Charles Scribner's Sons, 1899. Pp. xxxix + 421. \$3, *net*.

IN examining this commentary we have been struck, first, with its excellence. It exhibits the same fine scholarship as the others of this series, and stands easily the best English commentary upon the books of Samuel. We have admired, secondly, the independent judgment of the author. He has evidently carefully thought over the problems of his work and adopted his own conclusions without necessarily following in the track of such eminent scholars as Budde, Driver, Kittel, and Wellhausen, who have traversed much of the material before him. He is, however, in thorough harmony with modern critical scholarship in respect to the general literary composition and historical value of 1 and 2 Samuel. Two main sources are held to underlie these two books. These sources are clearly evident from the different positions assigned to Samuel, from the different views given in respect to the desire of Israel for a king, from the double narratives of the choice of Saul as king and of David's introduction to Saul, and also from other particulars. The earlier of these sources Professor Smith holds to have been written soon after the death of Solomon, and to furnish a brief life of Saul (1 Sam., chaps. 9-10: 16; 11, 13, 14), an account of David at the court of Saul (1 Sam. 16: 14-23; 18: 6-13, 20-29*a*; 19: 11-17), David's flight and life as an outlaw (1 Sam. 21: 2-10; 22; 23: 1-14; 25-27; 29; 30), the death of Saul (1 Sam., chap. 31), and David's reign (2 Sam., chaps. 2-4; 7 [?]; 9-20; 1 Kings, chaps. 1-2). The second source is regarded as coming from "a writer with a theocratic bias dissatisfied with the comparatively worldly view of David presented in the history just defined, and also with its lack of serious condemnation of Saul." Hence this author, who lived at "a comparatively late date—perhaps in or after the exile"—rewrote the history. His work included an account of the personality and activity of Samuel (1 Sam., chaps. 1-8; 10: 17-25; 12; 15), the early life of David and his relation to Saul (1 Sam. 16: 1-13; 17, in some form; 18: 1-5, 14-19, 30; 19: 1-10, 18-24; 21: 11-16; 22: 3-5; 23: 19-24: 26; 28; 2 Sam., chap. 1), and a summary of David's reign, with the Messianic promise (2 Sam., chap. 7). Neither of these two works must we consider as entirely preserved in the section mentioned.¹ These two main sources were

¹ We have followed Professor Smith in giving the above outline. We are at a

united into one history, giving us substantially our present books of Samuel. In this theory Professor Smith differs from Budde, Cornill, and others, in *not* identifying these underlying histories with the documents of the Hexateuch known as J and E. "Repeated examination," he says, "of the points of resemblance has failed to convince me of the identity which is claimed."

In a commentary the question is doubtless often an open one in regard to the exact kind of information which it should furnish. For ourselves, we like to know, not only the possible interpretations and renderings which may be given to passages, but also how representative scholars stand in regard to them. This and other similar information, which frequently can be introduced by the insertion of a few abbreviations, we do not think Professor Smith has given with sufficient fulness. We illustrate with a few examples selected almost at random. On 1 Sam. 1:5 no explanation is given of "double portion," A. V. and R. V.;² no indication, also, that Driver, Wellhausen, and Stade follow the Septuagint rendering of this verse given in the margin of the R. V., but which Professor Smith condemns as awkward. In the same verse, for the explanation of צִרְהָ "co-wife," the reference is to Lagarde's *Mittheilungen*, with no mention of the far more accessible work of Driver on *The Hebrew Text of the Books of Samuel*, where a page is devoted to the discussion of the word. On the question whether the Septuagint text of 1 Sam. 17:1—18:5 is a recension of the Massoretic text or has arisen from another original text, only Wellhausen is mentioned as favoring the former view, although agreeing with him are such authorities as Kuenen and Budde. We look in vain also for Budde's emendation of 1 Sam. 17:12. The view of Budde that we have a double narrative woven together in 2 Sam. 1:1—16 is rejected, but we are not informed that this view is indorsed by Cornill and Kittel, and that the reason for it is supposed to rest in the requirement of 2 Sam. 4:10. Perhaps it is too much to ask for all of these particulars. Some, indeed, prefer that a commentator should simply give his own views, with little regard to those of others.

An important feature of a critical commentary upon 1 and 2 Samuel is necessarily the treatment of the Hebrew text, which has suffered

loss, however, to account for the assignment of 2 Sam., chap. 7, to the earlier source. We wish, also, that he had indicated in his final summary the place of 2 Sam., chaps. 5, 6, 8, 21—24.

² An obsolete rendering, it is true, and yet, from its retention in the R. V., worthy of explanation.

many corruptions. Here Professor Smith has made diligent and judicious use of the results of others and added his own most creditable suggestions for the solution of textual problems. This is a marked and impressive part of his work.

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JERUSALEM THE HOLY. A Brief History of Ancient Jerusalem ; with an Account of the Modern City and its Conditions Political, Religious, and Social. By EDWIN SHERMAN WALLACE, late United States Consul for Palestine. With fifteen Illustrations from Photographs and four Maps. New York, Chicago, Toronto: The Fleming H. Revell Co., 1898. Pp. 359. \$1.50.

THIS is a well-made book of 359 pages, with fifteen clearly printed and attractive photograph illustrations, and four maps. These maps, reprinted by permission from Mr. Townsend MacCoun's *The Holy Land in Geography and History*, are fairly adequate; but one full-page map of the modern city and its environs would have been worth them all.

The three historical chapters on "The City of the Canaanites," "The City of David and Solomon," and "Jerusalem as Christ Saw It" are mediocre compilations, padded with common-place moralizing and trite religious reflections. But when in chap. iv, "The City as it is To-Day," Mr. Wallace begins to use the results of personal observation and inquiry during the five years of his consulate, his matter is much more interesting and important. The reader gets information that should be trustworthy of the topography of Jerusalem, its walls and gates, its streets and markets, its water supply and climate. The religious life and activity of the city are well presented in chapters on "The Jews," "The Moslems," "The Christians," and a useful summary is furnished of various missionary enterprises carried on in Jerusalem.

Mr. Wallace's account of the excavations and their results is disappointingly meager. The subject is dismissed in fifteen pages, closing with a recommendation to the reader to consult the quarterly reports of the Palestine Exploration Fund. He discusses at some length, however, the question of the site of the holy sepulcher in the chapter infelicitously entitled "The New or Gordon's Calvary," which is accompanied by two very good photographs. Major Conder and Dr.